

Kaplan International Center Seattle

Seattle is an international commerce center and home to major companies such as Microsoft, Boeing and Starbucks. Seattle’s mild year-round climate makes it one of the “greenest” cities in the United States. Located between the majestic Cascade Mountains and the Pacific Ocean, Seattle is considered one of the most desirable places to live in the United States.

Seattle is a bustling city with much to see and do such as the Space Needle, Pike Place Market, the Seattle Waterfront and Tillicum Village. Don't forget to take an underground tour. After the Great Seattle Fire of 1889, the city was rebuilt over the top of the ruins. Take a guided tour through the hidden underground passages that were once the main streets and storefronts of old downtown Seattle.

The Kaplan Seattle center is located right in the heart of Seattle’s University District. Restaurants and shops surround the center, and the location is also ideal for meeting American students. This neighborhood also has many free wireless access options, including a free connection at the Kaplan center.



Seattle at night

Kaplan International Center Educational Programs in the USA are accredited by the Accrediting Council for Continuing Education and Training.



Kaplan International Centers is a member of AAIEP (American Association of Intensive English Programs), TESOL (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages) and NAESA (Association for International Educators).



Kaplan International Center Seattle
4216 University Way NE
Seattle, WA 98105
USA

Center Facilities

Classrooms

Kaplan International Center Seattle is constantly expanding and currently has 14 classrooms. To facilitate the learning experience, our teachers often make use of television, DVDs, and other multimedia.

Multimedia and IT center

Two computer labs are available with a total of 20 workstations designated for students! The various software available for ESL students includes the ELLIS[®] pronunciation tool and TOEFL practice exams. Kaplan also provides wireless Internet access for students' classroom and personal use. Finally, there are 6 additional computers available solely for the use of internet and student email.

Library

Within the Kaplan Seattle center is a resource library that offers students access to movies, short stories and other fictional books, listening tapes, grammar books, class textbooks, TOEFL and other test preparation materials. Furthermore, students have access to the University of Washington (UW) libraries and materials. These libraries are within a 5-minute walk from the Kaplan center. Finally, the University District branch of the Seattle Public Library is available for use by Kaplan International Center students. The library includes free Internet access as well as book, CD and DVD loans.

Student Lounge

There are three different student lounges that are equipped with vending machines, refrigerators and microwaves. The main lounge also offers comfortable couches and a TV, which makes it the ideal spot for students to relax after class. All lounges are open to students during the regular center hours.

Cafeteria

Because Kaplan is in the heart of the bustling University District, there are countless affordable restaurants nearby which serve various international and American cuisines.

Sports facilities

The campus at the University of Washington has many public sports facilities, such as canoe and kayak rentals. Also, within a short walk from the center, Ravenna Park is an ideal spot for outdoor activities such as soccer or frisbee.

Gym facilities

The University District of Seattle has several gyms where students can become members. The YMCA and University Fitness are just two options.

Activities/Social Program

With Mariners baseball games, hiking at Mt. Rainer, canoeing and paintball, you'll discover parts of Seattle you didn't know existed. These activities are led by a member of the Kaplan staff and will help you to meet new people and discover the city.



Computer lab



Kaplan classroom

Your first day

On the first day of your course you need to report to the Kaplan center, which is located at 4216 University Way NE at 10 am. Your first day will be a Monday unless there is a national holiday on the Monday - in which case your first day will be Tuesday.

On your first day of orientation, Kaplan staff will collect the required documentation listed below. Afterwards, you will also be given a tour of Kaplan's facilities and the surrounding area. You will learn practical information such as where to buy a phone card or bus pass, how to use the post office, and where to find the best coffee! On your first day of orientation, Kaplan will also provide you with several activities to help you get to know your fellow students.

Please bring the following with you:

- Passport and I-94 form (paper you will receive upon arrival to the USA)
- USD \$40 book deposit
- I-20 form (certificate of eligibility), if required
- Proof of health insurance (if you did not purchase Kaplan insurance)
- Your address in the USA
- Course payment/voucher, if available
- All your Kaplan documents and a pen and paper for notetaking purposes.

At the end of the day you will receive information about the week's activities and your class schedule.

Local Information

Transport - buses and trains

Buses to most areas in Seattle are available within a few minutes walk of the center. Trains to Vancouver, Canada and Portland (both approximately 4 hours) are available downtown, which is a 20 minute bus ride from the center.

Banks and Post Office

A variety of banks are within a few blocks of the center and there is a post office on the same block.

Restaurants and cafés

There are many restaurants of all varieties right outside the door of the center.

Department stores and supermarkets

There are many shopping opportunities in the neighborhood as well as in nearby downtown (20 minutes by bus) and the University Village Shopping Area (5-10 minutes by bus).

Telephone and Internet Café

Telephone and Internet are available throughout the University District and on the University of Washington campus.



Seattle Lobby



Kaplan students



Kaplan teacher with students



Seattle Lounge

Cost of Living

Approximate prices in USD (subject to change)

Sandwich	\$ 6.00
Lunch	\$ 10.00
Hamburger	\$6.00
Meal in restaurant	\$10.00-20.00
Tea/Coffee	\$3.00
Tickets:	
Movie	\$9.50
Bus	\$1.75
Weekly metro pass or equivalent	\$18.00

Sample Activities Schedule

Please note that this is a sample program and activities may change.

Week one

Monday	Welcome new students!
Tuesday	Shopping
Wednesday	Movie night
Thursday	Mariners baseball games
Friday	Overnight trip to Whistler, Canada

Week two

Monday	Canoeing
Tuesday	Hiking Mt. Rainer
Wednesday	Trip to the Space Needle
Thursday	Visit to Theater
Friday	Barbeque

Kaplan International Center **Seattle**



Transfer Information

Kaplan Transfers

Your arrival will be at the Seattle/Tacoma (Sea-Tac) International airport. A staff member or your host family will be waiting for you at the top of the escalator between baggage claims 7 and 8. They will be holding a Kaplan sign. Before your departure, you will receive a welcome packet confirming this information.

Independent Transfers

To get to the Kaplan center from the airport, take bus number 194 to downtown (4th Ave. and Jackson) and then transfer to route number 71, 72 or 73 going to the University District. The bus route will take you directly to the Kaplan center at 4216 University Way NE. You can also pay for a taxi from the airport to the center, or to your accommodation.



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Details may change. Published Jan 2010.